

intend to remain in Iraq indefinitely. Permanent U.S. military bases are a temptation for terrorists and would be a continuing symbol of U.S. occupation.

The U.S. Ambassador in Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said on March 24, 2006, that the United States "has no goal of establishing permanent bases in Iraq." Senior-level officials regularly promise that the United States will not establish permanent bases in Iraq. But the facts tell a different story.

General John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, testified before Congress earlier this year that he couldn't rule out the possibility of permanent bases in Iraq. And according to the Congressional Research Service, the Bush administration has requested more than \$1.1 billion for new military construction in Iraq, nearly double what the United States has spent in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates combined. This very bill we are considering includes \$348 million for more base construction. This begs the question, if the U.S. Government doesn't plan to occupy Iraq for any longer than necessary, why are we spending billions of dollars to add onto and build more bases?

At the end of March, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said, and I agree, that "we must . . . show that we will not become a permanent force of occupation . . .". Last month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice conceded that the Bush administration had probably made "thousands" of "tactical errors" in Iraq. Let's not compound the problem by establishing permanent bases in Iraq.

I say it again: if we are serious about finding ways to neutralize the insidious insurgency in Iraq, we must convince the rest of the world—especially the Muslim world—that we do not intend to remain in Iraq indefinitely. Approving the amendment offered by the senior Senator from Delaware will help us send that message. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support the Biden amendment to prohibit the United States from building permanent military bases in Iraq.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, there are two amendments that have been cleared for consideration by the Senate.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3605

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up and consider amendment No. 3605 on behalf of Mr. LOTT regarding Armed Forces retirement home.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for Mr. LOTT, proposes an amendment numbered 3605.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To designate the Navy, acting through the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, as the agent for all matters relating to the construction of a new Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi)

On page 193, line 25, insert after "Provided," the following: "That the Navy, acting through the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, shall be the agent for all matters with regard to the planning, design, construction, and contract administration related to the construction of the new Armed Forces Retirement Home: *Provided further*,".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3605) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3657

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3657 on behalf of Senator LEAHY and others regarding international disaster and famine assistance and hurricane relief.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for Mr. LEAHY and Mr. DURBIN, proposes an amendment numbered 3657.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To address a shortfall in funding for international disaster and famine assistance)

On page 118, line 7, strike "\$136,290,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$171,290,000".

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3657, AS MODIFIED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I send a modification to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Without objection, the amendment is so modified.

The amendment (No. 3657), as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To address a shortfall in funding for international disaster and famine assistance and for hurricane relief)

On page 118, line 7, strike "\$136,290,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$171,290,000".

On page 117, line 25, strike "\$10,500,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$22,500,000".

On page 117, line 26, after "That" insert the following:

of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$12,000,000 shall be made available for assistance for Guatemala for relief and recon-

struction activities related to Hurricane Stan: *Provided further*, That

On page 126, line 12, after the period insert the following:

#### (RESCISSION)

SEC. 1406. Of the funds appropriated under the heading "Economic Support Fund" that are available for assistance for Egypt in Public Law 109-102 and under such heading in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, \$47,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That such amount shall be derived only from funds available for cash transfer assistance.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this amendment offered by myself, Senator DURBIN and Senator WYDEN, provides an additional \$35 million for famine and disaster assistance for people in West Africa and in the Horn of Africa who are suffering from severe drought and hunger.

In last year's supplemental we provided additional funding for this purpose and according to USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance it was extremely helpful.

The situation this year is no less dire. Additional funding for famine and disaster assistance is required for the Horn of Africa where 15 million people are at risk and an additional 8 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia face severe food and water shortages. To put it another way, they are going to die if we and others don't do more to help them.

In Ethiopia alone, more than 740,000 people urgently need water, and more than 1.5 million children under five require immunizations against disease.

The shortfall in this account also threatens to jeopardize USAID's response to other emergencies in Africa. Humanitarian programs in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Cote d'Ivoire face cuts in funding despite worsening circumstances.

In Cote d'Ivoire, 500,000 internally displaced persons face growing hardship and insecurity. USAID does not have the resources to respond to the increased needs of vulnerable people, especially women, and children.

The situation in these countries is worse than pitiful. This amendment will not solve the problem, but it will save lives and help prevent the situation from getting even worse. It is what we need to do to give the relief workers who are trying to get food, water and shelter to these people the resources they need.

Mr. President, the devastation caused by Hurricane Stan did not receive the attention that it should have by the Congress. That was partly because it was overshadowed by the terrible earthquake in Pakistan and by Hurricane Katrina.

Whole villages in Guatemala were buried by some 900 mudslides, 670 people died, 845 are missing, and 475,000 were directly affected. Many of them lost their homes, their property and their livelihoods as a result of Hurricane Stan. Most of the destruction occurred in one of the poorest parts of